

Sermon - I'm Changing My Mind (A Process) – Romans 12

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is your reasonable service.* ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

³For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

A word for other Christians, Paul urges us as a result of the mercy we have received, that we present ourselves as a living sacrifice. Because of His mercy we can sacrifice and trust Him. Unless you recognize and appreciate His mercy, it will be hard for you to sacrifice your all on the altar.

What does a living sacrifice mean?

Living means exactly that. It is a live. A dead sacrifice can't jump off the altar. A living sacrifice can move around and might not stay put.

Sacrifice is something that is presented and offered to God for his use and honor.

We need to lay our whole life on the altar to God which is our reasonable service. This means it is the logical thing to do. It makes sense to offer Him our best because of the mercies we have and continue to receive from God.

My wife explained to me that reasonable service is the least that you can do based upon every other benefit you received (making the bed story/example).

Verse 2.

Don't be conformed to the world. We are in the world, we operate in the world, we live in the world, but we are not supposed to be conformed or to use the fashion or pattern of the world for our blueprint for how to live in the world.

How does the world live; what is the pattern of the world?

Instead, we have to transform through renewing. Renew or transform, a complete change or transformation. The transformation is in our minds or the soulish realm.

Change the way we think about the world. Hard to give God our best when the world is in the way.

In our minds (where repentance takes place) we need to test what we are doing to see if it lines up with the acceptable and the perfect will of God.

Verse 3

We need to think about ourselves in humility. Knowing God has given each of us a measure of faith to work with.

The World – Lust of the eye, lust of the flesh, pride of life.

For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world 1 John 2:16.

What is the summary from all this?

Because of the mercies we have received, we should continually offer ourselves as a sacrifice to God. Place His will and His way as the priority of our lives. His mercy is the basis of my sacrifice.

It is the least we can do....the logical thing to do.

The next step after sacrifice is to live according to His will. There is life after death.

It is a daily sacrifice because we are living.

- Daily because His mercies are new daily (Lamentations 3:22-23).
- ²² It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.
- ²³ They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.
- **The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;^[a]
his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.**

Change your mind about doing it the way of the world.

- Things that we see and desire; physical pleasures, pride in who we are and what we have in terms of the world cannot be our primary pursuit.
- Attain these things His way. Seeking first His Kingdom.

Not about how you feel but what you know to be truth.

See also Ephesians 2:2-6

² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵ Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) ⁶ And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: